

**SECTION C: POTABLE WATER SUB-ELEMENT**

**GOAL:** Section 125.01, Florida Statutes provides authority for the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") to provide and regulate drinking water supplies. The goals of the Board relative to potable water supply and distribution are: to provide an adequate, safe, and sanitary supply of potable water to users of the water system; to provide the best possible potable water to consumers at the most cost effective price; improve and maintain water supply, treatment, storage and distribution systems; to expand the wholesale and retail consumer base whenever financially feasible; protect surface water and groundwater supplies from contamination or overuse, and; promote and further the laws of the State relative to public health and drinking water.

Vision: We will develop efficient and effective infrastructure that promotes economic development and enhances the environment, quality of life, and aesthetics

**GENERAL STRATEGY**

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The general strategy for this sub-element is to:

- Promote the implementation of the Master Plan for Water System;
- Where possible, obtain external funds for water system improvements;
- Provide future consecutive system increases in demand with County-provided potable water;
- Identify and designate service or franchise areas for water service based on Map 5.1;
- Retain County control over Deer Point Reservoir;
- Ensure that all public and private water systems are installed in accordance with County standards;
- Ensure that developers bear a proportionate cost of providing water systems;
- Promote water conservation;
- Protect surface and groundwater resources from potential contamination, and;
- Establish level of service standards for concurrency management purposes.
- Identify locations for alternate water sources.
- Protect ground water supply sources within Bay County for future growth

**Objective 5C.1:** Use the Master Plan for Water System as the basis for correcting system deficiencies and making system upgrades, as well as capital improvements to treatment and transmission system.

*Public Purpose: To ensure the continuing availability of safe drinking water (s.125.01, 403.851, F.S.).*

*Performance Measure: The extent to which projects identified in the Master Plan are completed.*

**Policy 5C.1.1:** The Board shall use its Master Plan for Water System as the basis for correcting water system deficiencies and identifying alternate locations for water sources.

**Policy 5C.1.2:** The County will use federal, state and/or regional grants, loans, appropriations, or any other means of funding for water system improvement projects as considered appropriate.

*Performance Measures: Amount of external funds obtained for water system improvement projects. Ability to forecast and budget the collection of impact fees to pay off incurred debt.*

**Objective 5C.2:** Provide potable water from Deer Point Reservoir as well as any other permitted viable source using the County's system to replace existing community service water wells.

*Public Purpose: To maximize use of available potable water resources and facilities while concurrently promoting conservation and protection of ground and surface water sources.*

**Policy 5C.2.1:** The Board will strive to make potable water available from the county system on a wholesale and retail basis to municipal and unincorporated areas.

**Policy 5C.2.2:** Bay County shall utilize the *Water Supply Facilities Work Plan* to identify and plan for the water supply sources and facilities needed to serve existing and new development. The *Water Supply Facilities Work Plan* is hereby incorporated into this Plan by reference and is attached at the conclusion of this Sub-Element.

**Policy 5C.2.3:** Coordinate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD), to secure an alternative water supply source.

**Policy 5C.2.4:** Coordinate with the NFWFMD to ensure that groundwater resources in Bay County are protected.

*Performance Measures: The extent to which all Consumptive Use Permits issued by the District are reviewed for potential impact.*

**Policy 5C.2.5;** Coordinate with wholesale customers to ensure compliance with the *Water Supply Facilities Work Plan*.

*Performance Measures: The extent to which all wholesale water customers comply with the water supply plan. The extent to which all revisions of the wholesale water contracts accurately track capacity trends, compliance with FAC as required by consecutive systems, and early communications to discuss potential future impacts. The extent to which all wholesale customers achieve county signature on all PWS permits prior to submission to the FDEP. The extent to which all consecutive systems have adequate individual storage capacity as prescribed in FAC.*

**Objective 5C.3:** Establish service or franchise areas with the cities, or other public service entities, to specifically identify who will be distributing potable water in any given geographic area based on Map 5.1 in this Plan.

*Public Purpose: To assure cooperation and certainty in the provision of potable water services (s.163.3161, F.S.).*

**Policy 5C.3.1:** The Board will coordinate with the cities, or other appropriate entities, to identify and establish fixed service or franchise areas on a countywide basis.

**Objective 5C.4:** Make certain that the Board retains control over all water withdrawals from Deer Point Reservoir.

*Public Purpose: To protect and control the County's drinking water supply. (s.403.851, F.S., Ch. 67-1101, LOF).*

*Performance Measure: The extent to which the Board allows water withdrawals from Deer Point Reservoir.*

**Policy 5C.4.1:** No water can be withdrawn from Deer Point Reservoir for water supply, irrigation or other consumptive purpose without approval from the Board.

**Objective 5C.5:** Make certain that all water distribution systems are designed and constructed in conformance with professionally accepted standards.

*Public Purpose: Protect public health by ensuring that drinking water systems are built to County standards and compliant with applicable state law (s.403.853, F.S.).*

*Performance Measure: Requiring drinking water systems be installed in accordance with County standards as part of the development review process.*

**Policy 5C.5.1:** All public and private potable water supply and distribution systems will be designed, installed and/or constructed in compliance with the engineering references set forth in Section 62-555.330, Florida Administrative Code and as otherwise may be required by applicable law.

**Policy 5C.5.2:** All connections to public or private water distribution systems shall be in conformance with standards specified in Chapter 553, F.S.

**Policy 5C.5.3:** Developers shall install water lines at their own expense and constructed to County standards for projects in areas where central water is available.

**Policy 5C.5.4:** In areas where central water service is not available private potable water wells may be installed consistent with applicable regulations.

**Objective 5C.6:** Establish water conservation programs consistent with building codes and applicable law.

*Public Purpose: Promote the conservation of potable water resources [s.187.201 (8), 553.14, F.S.].*

*Performance Measure: Ensure compliance with s.553.14, F.S. as part of the building inspection and permitting process.*

**Policy 5C.6.1:** Water conserving plumbing fixtures shall be required in all newly constructed buildings.

**Policy 5C.6.2:** The County shall investigate strategies to further conserve water such as incentives for low-impact water-efficient design practices, including water efficient appliances, irrigation systems, Xeriscape, reuse of treated stormwater and wastewater for non-potable water needs, and retrofit programs.

**Objective 5C.7:** Maintain water quality in Deer Point Reservoir at current levels or better.

*Public Purpose: Protect the County's drinking water supply [s.187.201 (8), 403.851, F.S., Ch. 67-1101, LOF].*

*Performance Measure: The extent to which water quality standards are maintained and verified through a regular monitoring program.*

**Policy 5C.7.1:** Water quality in Deer Point Reservoir will be protected through application of the "Deer Point Reservoir Protection Zone" ordinance (Ord. No. 94-12).

**Policy 5C.7.2:** Water quality conditions in Deer Point Reservoir will be monitored through use of an ongoing water quality monitoring program.

**Objective 5C.8:** Protect groundwater resources from contamination and/or overuse.

*Public Purpose: Protect the County's groundwater resources [s.187.201(8), F.S.].*

*Performance Measure: The extent to which groundwater contamination has occurred as determined by test by the Water Management District, DEP or environmental health officials.*

**Policy 5C.8.1:** Installation of septic tanks shall be prohibited within two hundred (200) feet of any community-level water well.

**Policy 5C.8.2:** Underground storage tanks containing fuel or any other hazardous material are prohibited within three-hundred (300) feet of any community level water well.

**Policy 5C.8.3:** All new community level potable water wells will be evaluated to determine possible effects on groundwater resources.

**Policy 5C.8.4:** Create an area of protection around community wells.

*Performance Measure: Evaluation of the impact of community water wells on a case-by-case base in conjunction with the Water Management District.*

**Objective 5C.9:** Establish level of service standards for purposes of estimating consumptive demands and issuing development orders.

*Public Purpose: Implement "Concurrency Management" as required by law [s.163.3177 (10)(h), F.S.].*

*Performance Measure: The extent to which LOS standards are maintained.*

**Policy 5C.9.1:** The County will use level of service standards (LOS) for purposes of concurrency evaluation and estimating consumptive demand.

Water supplies and facilities shall be available to serve new development not later than the time of issuance of a certificate of occupancy. The LOS standards for potable water are as follows.

- (1) For purposes of concurrency evaluation the LOS is 90% of the water treatment plant(s) permitted capacity.
- (2) For purposes of estimating demand the LOS is 300 gallons per household per day.
- (3) For areas where central water service is not available, concurrency requirements may be satisfied by private, individual water wells.
- (4) Include a GPD per capita for wholesale systems to incorporate a method of conservation charges as adopted in the *Water Supply Facilities Work Plan*.

**Objective 5C.10:** Reduce demand on water resources by establishing a water reuse program that increases the quantity of reclaimed water used and public acceptance of reuse programs consistent with building codes and applicable law.

**Policy 5C.10.1:** The County will support the NFWMD water reuse projects and implementation of new regulations or programs designed to increase the volume of reclaimed water used.

**Policy 5C.10.2:** The County will implement a re-use dry-line program.